

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 OMB-01 PA-01 ICA-11 H-01
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R 131055Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7044
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06400

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
SUBJECT: GOJ VIEWS ON COST SHARING

REF: TOKYO 4023

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING APRIL 11 CABINET MEETING, JDA DIRGEN KANEMARU SAID THAT HIS AGENCY WAS STUDYING WAYS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO ASSIST USG IN MEETING HIGH COST OF MAINTAINING U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN. MEANWHILE, AT SAME DAY'S LOWER HOUSE CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING, MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN NAKAJIMA RESPONDED TO OPPOSITION INTERPELLATION BY STATING THAT GOJ HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING OHIRA VIEW. (INTERPELLATION HAD BEEN SPARKED BY LEAK TO PRESS OF 1973 MOFA WORKING PAPER WHICH OUTLINED VERY BROAD INTERPRETATION OF OHIRA VIEW.) MOFA OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE PRIVATELY ASSURED EMBASSY THAT NAKAJIMA STATEMENT WILL NOT PREVENT FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATIONS
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PERMITTING MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON COST SHARING. END
SUMMARY.

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING APRIL 11 CABINET MEETING JDA DIRGEN KANEMARU TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS CONSIDERING WAYS TO INCREASE GOJ SHARE OF EXPENSES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN. CITING FRG MODEL AS

ONE WHICH JDA WOULD STUDY IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID DUE REGARD WOULD BE GIVEN TO OHIRA VIEW. THIS STATEMENT HAS LED TO PRESS SPECULATION THAT GOJ IS SEARCHING FOR MORE FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF THEN-FOREIGN MINISTER'S 1973 DECLARATION THAT GOJ WOULD PROVIDE NEW FACILITIES TO U.S. ONLY ON REPLACEMENT BASIS.

2. MORNING YOMIURI OF APRIL 11 GAVE TOP PLAY TO LEAKED 1973 MOFA PAPER WHICH RECOMMENDED CONSIDERABLY BROADER AND MORE FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF OHIRA VIEW THAN HAS HERETOFORE BEEN GOJ PRACTICE. "GOVERNMENT SOURCE" WHO LEAKED MOFA DOCUMENT (THOUGHT TO BE FROM JDA) SAID THAT GOJ WAS MOVING TOWARD "BOLD, EXPANDED INTERPRETATION OF U.S.-JAPAN SOFA" BASED ON MOFA PAPER. SPECIFICALLY, MOFA PAPER ARGUED THAT REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION COULD TAKE PLACE EVEN IF NEW FACILITY HAD DIFFERENT FUNCTION FROM OLD; THAT NEW FACILITIES COULD BE LARGER IN SCALE THAN OLD; AND THAT GOJ COULD FUND EVEN RELOCATION PROJECTS REQUESTED BY U.S. SIDE FOR ITS CONVENIENCE. YOMIURI REPORT NOTED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN HOUSING AND RELOCATION AREAS HAD BEEN MADE TO JDA DEPUTY DIRGEN MARUYAMA BY USFJ COMMANDER LOVING APRIL 4.

3. KANEMARU STATEMENT AND YOMIURI STORY SPARKED INTERPELLATIONS AT APRIL 11 LOWER HOUSE CABINET COMMITTEE DEFENSE DEBATE. IKUKO YAMANAKA (JCP) QUERIED JDA DIRGEN
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CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT, ELICITING REPLY THAT IT REPRESENTED ONLY PERSONAL OPINION, NOT GOJ POLICY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM YAMANAKA, AKIRA KUROYANAGI (CGP) AND YUTAKA HATA (SDF), MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN NAKAJIMA NOTED AGE OF LEAKED DOCUMENT AND STATED IT WAS INTERNAL WORKING PAPER AND NOT MOFA VIEW. HE FURTHER SAID THAT GOJ HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING OHIRA VIEW. AT APRIL 12 CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING, NAKAJIMA, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY ICHIRO WATANABE (CGP), RESTATED HIS POSITION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY AND ADDED THAT ANY MEASURES AGREED TO BY GOJ WOULD, OF COURSE, BE IN ACCORD WITH SOFA.

4. IN REGARD TO NAKAJIMA REPLY, MOFA SECURITY DIVISION DIRECTOR TAMBA AND FONMIN SECRETARY SATO ASSURED EMBOFFS EVENING APRIL 11 THAT IT WOULD NOT STAND IN WAY OF MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON COST-SHARING, INASMUCH AS THERE WAS ROOM FOR FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF OHIRA VIEW. TAMBA SAID THAT LEAKED PAPER WAS NOT, IN FACT, OPERATIONAL DOCUMENT, WHEREAS HE HAD DRAFTD PAPER IN MARCH OUTLINING FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF OHIRA VIEW, WHICH WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

5. LATEST PRESS STORIES FOLLOW ON EARLIER ARTICLE IN MARCH 14 SANKEI, WHICH QUOTED JDA'S MARUYAMA TO EFFECT THAT OHIRA VIEW WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE CHANGED TO MT US RQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF. FOLLOWING APRIL 4 LOVING CALL ON MARUYAMA ON TOTALLY UNRELATD MATTER, JDA SOURCE INDICATED TO PRESS THAT USFJ HAD MADE PRESENTATION ON HOUSING NEEDS (WHICH WERE IN FACT DISCUSSED IN PASSING). ARTICLES WENT ON TO CITE JDA SOURCES AS FLAGGING PROBLEMS ENTAILED, INCLUDING OHIRA VIEW.

6. COMMENT: VIEWS WITHIN GOJ ARE FAR FROM COORDINATED AT THIS STATE, BUT CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TRIAL-BALLOON
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FLOATING APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE, THUS FAR WITHOUT ADVERSE REPRCUSSIONS. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BURDENSARING, MILITARY PERSONNEL, CABINET, COSTS, MILITARY BASES, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: MARR, PGOV, MPOL, JA, US
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